

MAR 13 2015

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS RESOURCE  
OFFICE TO SUPPORT VETERANS.

1 WHEREAS, there are more than two-thousand four hundred  
2 veterans enrolled across the ten campuses of the University of  
3 Hawaii System, comprising four per cent of the student body; and  
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5 WHEREAS, veterans provide a wealth of leadership, talent,  
6 expertise, and experience to classrooms and university campuses;  
7 and  
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9 WHEREAS, veterans can face unique challenges when  
10 integrating back into society, including traumatic brain injury,  
11 post-traumatic stress disorder, physical and mental  
12 disabilities, risk of suicide, and hypervigilance; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii System does not have a  
15 dedicated office to address the educational needs of veterans  
16 and to encourage and recruit veterans to earn high quality  
17 degrees that will help them find rewarding employment; now,  
18 therefore,  
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of  
23 Hawaii is urged to establish a Veterans Resource Office and a  
24 Veterans Resource Center at each campus to support veterans in  
25 obtaining high quality degrees and to increase veteran  
26 enrollment; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Veterans Resource Center  
29 is urged to:  
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- (1) Conduct campus surveys of student veterans to identify the needs, address important issues, and collect suggestions of veterans;
- (2) Establish a campus steering committee consisting of student veterans, faculty, and staff to:
  - (A) Develop programs to establish or strengthen the veteran supportive campus program based on best practices; and
  - (B) Identify the needs of the student veterans;
- (3) Conduct sensitivity and awareness training for faculty and staff on military and veteran culture, including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, physical and mental disabilities, suicide risks, and hypervigilance;
- (4) Conduct student veteran orientation programs, including student veteran guides for the first day of classes;
- (5) Establish peer mentoring and peer support programs for student veterans;
- (6) Establish an optional veterans-only course taught by a veteran or by a trained volunteer on veteran issues;
- (7) Develop and implement outreach strategies to local military bases;
- (8) Act as a comprehensive resource and study center for student veterans, their families, and student family members of the armed forces who are currently deployed on active duty;
- (9) Collaborate with the community to obtain support from private organizations;
- (10) Conduct career and job placement services for student veterans; and



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(11) Take other actions to support student veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Veterans Resource Office is urged to offer a Veterans Supportive Campus certification to any campus that has successfully implemented and achieved the goals established by this Concurrent Resolution; an

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents; the President of the University of Hawaii System; and the Director of the State Office of Veterans' Services.

OFFERED BY:

Michelle Sidani

